

1970 to other counties was a continuation of the same pattern in 1960.

In order to attract new industry to the county a sound labor force, either trained or trainable is needed. Table 14 indicates Jackson County's estimated recruitable labor in comparison with neighboring counties. Jackson County appears to have more recruitable labor than the other counties with the exception of Haywood County. This amount of potential labor can be used in attracting new industry to Jackson County.

According to the 1970 Census, manufacturing employs the highest percent\* (26.7%) of workers, with professional and related services second (22.1%) and commerce third with 16.6 percent of the labor force. Table 15 compares Jackson County employment by industry with North Carolina and the nation. It is interesting that Jackson County being a rural county ranks below the State and the Nation in agricultural related employment. On the other hand, the county ranks above the State and the Nation in professional and related services. This occurrence is due primarily to Western Carolina University and Southwestern Technical Institute.

### INCOME

In 1970, Jackson County residents had a median family income of \$5,934. Median income means that half of the families had incomes above \$5,934 and half of the families had incomes below that amount. The county had a higher median income level than either Macon or Swain counties and lower than Haywood and Transylvania counties (Table 16). More than one fourth (28.8%) of the residents had incomes less than the poverty level as established in the 1970 Census (Table 17).

Mean (average) family income is defined as the total income of all families divided by the total number of families. One method of measuring income distribution is to observe the difference between the mean and median income